

...Cotton farming

(Continued from previous page)
 “It’s slowed us down. Our big rain was on the end of May, but we’d had several showers for the 10 days prior to that,” Ricky Yantis, who farms in Lamb County, said. “It made us play hopscotch with the planters trying to find dry spots to keep planting. We’ve been fortunate, but it’s still been troublesome.”

This year’s planting season is a stark contrast to 2022.

“Last year, we were dry, and we weren’t getting these little showers. So, we were through by May 28 easily,” he said. “The irrigated crops struggled to get started because it was so hot and dry and windy. This year, our dryland finally got enough rain to sprout it.”

Yantis noted that famers around him have received even more rain than he did.

The moisture brings some challenges this planting season, but farmers have more hope than last year.

“We went from bone dry to moisture that’s adequate and still troublesome to plant. Even though the challenges have been different, these challenges are a lot better than the dry one, because at least here you’re working toward a result of something,” Yantis said.

For other cotton farmers, rains have been spotty.

Jonathan Upton, who planted cotton in Gaines and Andrews counties, said he has received close to three inches of rain in May.

“Last year was pretty well a benchmark for the area for bad years. It was pretty terrible across the board,” he said. “This year, going into it, the rains have some positivity



Field Trip! Bronte ISD recently held their first field trip of their summer program. The kids in the program were treated to a trip to Abilene to visit Frontier Texas.

generated across the area.”

Even though the rain brings some complications, they are thankful for the moisture.

“We’re optimistic for the growing season. Maybe we can have some good fortune and have something to harvest,” Upton said.

The U.S. drought monitor shows drought conditions have reduced for the Panhandle and

Southern Plains. The recent showers have provided needed relief from the long-lasting drought and hope for a more productive growing season.

“Out of my 5,000 acres last year, I harvested only 168 acres. This year, if it warms up and continues to rain periodically, it could be a very productive year. And that’s what I’m hoping for,” Yantis said.

from the outdoors,” Baumann Powers says. “There was such healing power there for Shorty, and he wanted to spread that to other people.”

Powers founded POINT in 1979 to empower people with disabilities through outdoor adventure. He drew together young athletes he knew from the world of wheelchair basketball. The organization was part of a growing disability rights movement, but its activism took a distinctive form. “We wanted to be able to demonstrate what was possible,” says Rogers, who played wheelchair basketball with Powers. “Not just talk about it—we wanted to get out and show people.”

For their first trip, the group

rafted California’s American River. In 1981, they backpacked into Utah’s Uinta Mountains. By 1982, the group was looking for what Rogers called “the next big thing.” An Abilene nonprofit proposed POINT’s next challenge, and a consensus emerged: the “top of Texas” would be the destination.

A friend of the group scouted the trail to Guadalupe Peak in advance and shared photos with Powers, who declared it to be nothing but a “dusty old road” that the men would conquer with ease. It would be two days up, one day down, he assured his friends.

The climbers headed west to confront the obstacle. Guadalupe Mountains National Park officials had safety concerns, but a young ranger named Jonathan Jarvis

How three men in wheelchairs summited Guadalupe Peak

A mile above the West Texas badlands, a desert thunderstorm is unleashing its fury on the Guadalupe Mountains. Amid the storm-battered summits, three men—David Kiley, Joe Moss, and Don Rogers—find sanctuary beneath a rock overhang. They’d set out four days earlier, in July 1982, to ascend 3,000 feet to the state’s highest point, an obelisk at the top of Guadalupe Peak. And they were doing it in wheelchairs.

“I’ve never been that close to the power of thunder, echoing through those peaks,” Kiley says. “You knew how small you were and how powerful Mother Nature was. But I was beyond

the point of no return. You couldn’t have dragged me off that mountain without getting to the top.”

In their Guadalupe Peak ascent, the members of the nonprofit Paraplegics On Independent Nature Trips (POINT) undertook an immense physical test. Their goal was to challenge the perceptions of what people with disabilities can do in the outdoors. And four decades later, their achievement has influenced policy and opened doors for people of all abilities.

The catalyst for the climb was one man’s forceful personality. Michael “Shorty” Powers, who died in 2016, was an “extra-

extrovert,” his wife, Nance Baumann Powers, says. An avid fisherman from North Texas, his passion for the outdoors intensified after he lost the use of his legs in a car accident at age 17. “He couldn’t stay away

Pick Up Your Issue!



Bronte - Shirley’s Place & Bronte Supermarket
Robert Lee - Coke County Feed & Ranch Supply
Blackwell - Jerry’s Tool Shed

***Email your news or pictures to
 ObserverEnterprise@gmail.com
 or call/text to (325) 277-9210.***

**Drop boxes also available at Shirley’s in Bronte
 and Coke County Feed in Robert Lee.**

Make your financial future a priority.



Tommy E Neal, AAMS®
 Financial Advisor

2412 College Hills Boulevard
 Suite 102
 San Angelo, TX 76904
 325-223-8244

Edward Jones®
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
 edwardjones.com